

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES EXPANSION, FUNDING. TAX ON PERSONAL INCOMES ABOVE \$1 MILLION. INITIATIVE STATUTE.

ARGUMENT in Favor of Proposition 63

Almost 40 years ago, California emptied its mental hospitals, promising to fully fund community mental health services. That promise is still unfulfilled.

Hundreds of thousands of children and adults in California suffer from severe mental illnesses and cannot get the treatment they need. These children fail in school. Adults end up on the streets or in jail.

Proposition 63:

- Provides comprehensive mental health care for children, adults, and seniors.
- Helps individuals and families without insurance, or whose insurance doesn't pay for needed services.
- Includes mental health treatment, general medical care, housing, job training, and prescription drugs.
- *Is paid for by a 1% tax on income over \$1 million per year—people earning less than \$1 million per year won't pay anything extra.*
- Supports innovative programs that are proven to work.
- Requires annual oversight and accountability procedures to ensure funds are properly spent.

Proposition 63 also provides prevention services to help children, adults, and seniors get care *before* a mental illness becomes disabling.

The nonpartisan California Legislative Analyst concludes that Proposition 63 could save taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars annually by reducing expenses for medical care, homeless shelters, and law enforcement.

CALIFORNIA'S DOCTORS AND NURSES SUPPORT PROPOSITION 63 BECAUSE TREATMENT WORKS

Mental illness does not have to be disabling. With proper care, children can return to a normal life and enjoy success in school. Adults and seniors can regain their dignity and find productive work.

Mental illness often goes untreated because people lack access to care. State funding covers only a fraction of those needing help. Families whose loved ones begin treatment often find their insurance inadequate.

Proposition 63 provides effective treatment for all of those being denied care. It gives medical professionals the tools to save lives.

POLICE CHIEFS SUPPORT PROPOSITION 63 BECAUSE IT WILL MAKE CALIFORNIA SAFER

Twenty percent of a police officer's time is spent dealing with people with mental illnesses. One in three people who are homeless are on the streets only because of untreated mental illness.

Our prisons and jails are full of thousands of people with mental illnesses who would not be there if they had been offered treatment. We should provide care *before* people end up on the streets, or behind bars. Then our police officers can focus on criminals, instead of people who are ill and need help.

CALIFORNIA'S TEACHERS SUPPORT PROPOSITION 63 BECAUSE IT WILL HELP CHILDREN SUCCEED IN SCHOOL AND IN LIFE

It's heartbreaking to watch children fall into mental illness. They struggle in school, unable to focus on learning. Left untreated, many withdraw from teachers, friends, and family. Finding it difficult to "fit in" at school, many drop out. *All of these consequences are preventable.*

Proposition 63 provides for early intervention and badly needed services. It will help children avoid mental illness, or cope with its effects, and get back on track to learning.

MANY OF US KNOW SOMEONE WHO HAS SUFFERED FROM A SEVERE MENTAL ILLNESS. IT IS TIME TO STOP THE SUFFERING.

PLEASE VOTE YES ON PROPOSITION 63.

For more: www.CampaignForMentalHealth.org

DEBORAH BURGER, President

California Nurses Association

CHIEF CAM SANCHEZ, President

California Police Chiefs Association

BARBARA KERR, President

California Teachers Association

REBUTTAL to Argument in Favor of Proposition 63

We must get the mentally ill off the streets and get them the treatment they need. For too long, those who suffer have been left without hope and without help.

We agree!

However, we are not swayed by those who would use nice words to pass a shortsighted measure that is *guaranteed* to cause long-term failure. The problems the mentally ill face require a **REAL PLAN** for the future; *not* promises of funding tied to dangerously volatile income sources, which can vanish in a heartbeat.

We all remember the economic bubble that burst in California a few years ago. Budget surpluses abounded, but *suddenly without warning*, the high incomes and windfalls disappeared—and *took important tax dollars along with them!* Overnight, looming deficits and program cuts appeared. This measure follows the *same risky path*, pinning itself to those very incomes. Such folly is unreliable and irresponsible.

TAXPAYER-FUNDED INTERESTS pushing this new bureaucracy claim that similar programs have "demonstrated their effectiveness" in terms of "providing services," but that is *not the same thing as reducing mental illness or manifestations of it*. Nor does *any* evidence show that state and local costs have declined as a result.

We need to do something about mental illness, and reject *fake solutions* like Proposition 63 that only postpone serious fixes for later. This *sleight-of-hand substitute* is a feel-good proposal that doesn't plan for the future and doesn't make sense. Our children and families require better.

We urge you to vote NO on 63.

THE HONORABLE TIM LESLIE, Assemblyman

California State Legislature

DAVID YOW, Member

Citizens for a Healthy California